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November 20, 1961

ER 61-9126/a

STAT
Mr. Preston Hotchkis
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[redacted]

Dear Pres:

Thank you so much for your letter of November 14th in which you refer to the Doris Fleeson article. I certainly am not worried about the comments made in the press, or otherwise, by a few of our so-called liberals, and I hope that you will not let it bother you. After all, in public life a certain amount of this is to be expected.

Will look forward to seeing you soon, Pres, either in Washington or Los Angeles.

Warm personal regards,

/S/ John
John A. McCone

(s/by TML)

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PRESTON HOTCHKIS
PACIFIC MUTUAL BUILDING
LOS ANGELES

November 14, 1961

Dear John:

I had to let myself cool off a few days after reading Doris Fleeson's comment about your appointment before telling you what I think about it. She is an able writer with a needle-sharp pen, but it is not without significance that she gratuitously attacks a man in your position. You have accepted the call of the President to serve at a most critical post in a grim period and apparently with the hallmark of disqualification, in her opinion, that you came from the business and industrial community and you have made a success.

I wonder why she has not seen fit to comment upon the recurring work stoppages at Cape Canaveral and Vandenberg Air Force Base, the loss of over 50,000 man hours in one year, and the exaction by the unions at those installations of wages all out of proportion to that which is paid for comparable work elsewhere in the country; and all of this at a time when we are trying to catch up and pass the Russians in a life and death race.

My only advice is, don't let Doris Fleeson get under your skin as one apparently got under mine.

With warm personal regards,

Cordially yours,


Preston Hotchkis

The Honorable John A. McCone
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

P.G. Please don't acknowledge this but I will be seeing you either here or in Washington P.